

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 158598  
ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 H-01 INR-10 L-03  
NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-05 SP-02 SS-15  
TRSE-00 DODE-00 ACDA-12 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00  
INRE-00 /078 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/RPM:LBRECKON:KS

APPROVED BY EUR:JEGOODBY

EUR/WE:MLISSFELT

PM:JKAHAN

ACDA/ISP:JNEWHOUSE

DOD/ISA:LFINCH

NSC:GTREVERTON

INR:RBAR;Z

S/S:DANDERSON

EUR/RPM:SLEDGAR

-----015604 220141Z /73

O P 212341Z JUN 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION USNATO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

INFO USDEL MBFR VIENNA PRIORITY

USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

USNMR SHAPE BELGIUM

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY

S E C R E T STATE 158598

GENEVA FOR USSALTTWO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: NATO, PARM, FR

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PAGE 02 STATE 158598

SUBJECT: FRENCH PROPOSAL FOR A CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

IN EUROPE: THE MBFR CONNECTION

REF: STATE 135540 (DTG 270025Z MAY 78)

1. WITH THE NEW EASTERN MBFR COUNTERPROPOSALS ON THE

TABLE IN VIENNA, AND THE ALLIANCE SERIOUSLY CONSIDERING A NEW PACKAGE OF MBFR ASSOCIATED MEASURES, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE AVOID LETTING THE FRENCH PROPOSAL FOR A CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT IN EUROPE UNDERCUT THE VIENNA TALKS. GIVEN PRESIDENT GISCARD'S IDENTIFICATION WITH THE PROPOSAL WE CANNOT FLATLY DISMISS OR IGNORE IT. OUR INITIAL COMMENTS, HOWEVER, SHOULD EMPHASIZE THE IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO MBFR AT THIS POINT, AND MAKE CLEAR THAT WE WILL NOT TAKE A FORMAL POSITION ON DETAILS OF THE FRENCH PROPOSAL UNTIL THERE HAVE BEEN THOROUGH CONSULTATIONS IN THE ALLIANCE.

2. EMBASSY PARIS SHOULD TAKE AN EARLY OPPORTUNITY TO CONVEY THE POINTS IN PARAS 3 - 11 BELOW TO THE QUAI. USNATO SHOULD DRAW ON THESE POINTS IN COMMENTING ON THE FRENCH PROPOSAL. LONDON AND BONN SHOULD INFORM

FCO/FOREIGN OFFICE THAT WE ARE COMMENTING INITIALLY TO THE FRENCH ALONG THESE LINES. FYI. WE WILL STRESS THESE POINTS TO UK AND FRG REPS DURING MBFR BILATERALS THIS WEEK AND NEXT IF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN MBFR AND THE FRENCH-PROPOSED CONFERENCE ARISES. END FYI.

3. WE WELCOME THIS DEMONSTRATION OF FRENCH INTEREST IN ARMS CONTROL AND DISARMAMENT IN EUROPE.

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4. THE FRENCH PROPOSAL FOR A CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT IN EUROPE RELATES DIRECTLY TO THE SECURITY INTERESTS AND ARMS CONTROL OBJECTIVES OF THE WESTERN ALLIANCE.

5. THE ALLIANCE IS THUS THE PROPER FORUM FOR CONSIDERING THE FRENCH PROPOSAL. FRANCE HAS RECOGNIZED THIS POINT BY RAISING IT AT THE NATO SUMMIT MAY 31.

6. WE WILL BE PREPARED TO ENTER INTO DETAILED DISCUSSIONS OF THE FRENCH PROPOSALS IN BRUSSELS. FULL CONSIDERATION IN NATO IS ESSENTIAL BEFORE WE CAN REACH A POSITION ON THE IDEAS THE FRENCH HAVE OFFERED.

7. WE WISH TO ENSURE THAT THE FRENCH PROPOSAL DOES NOT UNDERCUT PROSPECTS FOR MOVEMENT IN MBFR. THE VIENNA NEGOTIATIONS PROVIDE A WELL-ESTABLISHED FORUM FOR DISCUSSIONS ON SECURITY AND ARMS CONTROL IN THE AREA OF PRINCIPAL CONCERN.

8. THE SOVIET RESPONSE TO THE WESTERN MBFR INITIATIVE SUGGESTS THAT THEY FEEL THE NEED TO TAKE WESTERN MBFR OBJECTIVES

SERIOUSLY. IF WE CAN BREAK THE DATA IMPASSE, EASTERN  
ACCEPTANCE OF CERTAIN STRUCTURAL ELEMENTS OF THE WESTERN  
POSITION COULD LEAD TO SERIOUS, SUBSTANTIVE NEGOTIATIONS  
ON REDUCTIONS.

9. WHILE IT IS TOO EARLY TO TELL WHETHER THE WEST  
CAN BUILD UPON THE EASTERN MOVE AND BREAK THE VIENNA  
DEADLOCK, IT IS IMPORTANT NOW THAT WE NOT DISTRACT  
ATTENTION AND IMPETUS FROM VIENNA BY OPENING UP ANOTHER  
NEGOTIATION.

10. AS FRANCE IS AWARE, NATO IS EXAMINING A NEW PACKAGE OF  
ASSOCIATED MEASURES FOR MBFR. THE CONFERENCE PROPOSED BY  
FRANCE WOULD DILUTE THIS EFFORT BY TREATING SIMILAR

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MEASURES IN ITS FIRST PHASE. WE BELIEVE OUR ENERGIES  
SHOULD BE FOCUSED NOW ON MPFR, HERE NATO CONVERSATIONS  
ON SUCH MEASURES ARE ALREADY WELL ADVANCED.

11. NATO MIGHT WISH TO LOOK AT THE RELATIONSHIP  
BETWEEN THE FRENCH PROPOSAL AND CSCE/CBMS, AS WELL  
AS THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS PROPOSED  
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PAGE 01 STATE 158598  
ORIGIN ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SIG-03 /028 R

66011  
DRAFTED BY:ACDA/ISP:MHUMPHREYS  
APPROVED BY:ACDA/ISP:MHUMPHREYS  
EUR:LBRECKON  
-----106369 301325Z /42  
R 300515Z JUN 78  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA  
AMEMBASSY OSLO  
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE  
AMEMBASSY LISBON  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG  
AMEMBASSY ATHENS  
AMEMBASSY ANKARA  
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

S E C R E T STATE 158598

FOL STATE 158598 SENT ACTION USNATO PARIS LONDON BONN INFO  
MBFR VIENNA GENEVA MOSCOW USNMR SHAPE USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN  
JUNE 21, 1978 REPEATED TO YOU QUOTE

S E C R E T STATE 158598

GENEVA FOR USSALTTWO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: NATO, PARM, FR

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VANCE UNQUOTE VANCE

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLICIES, DISARMAMENT  
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**Draft Date:** 21 jun 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Reference:** 78 STATE 135540  
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**Review Content Flags:** ANOMALY  
**Review Date:** 04 may 2005  
**Review Event:**  
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**Subject:** FRENCH PROPOSAL FOR A CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT IN EUROPE: THE MBFR CONNECTION  
**TAGS:** PARM, PORG, FR, NATO  
**To:** USNATO PARIS MULTIPLE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014